

Principal Linc ~ September 18, 2008

Reminder: NO SCHOOL K-12 Monday, September 21

Thank you to Shauneen Donlon and Pam Belfanz for chairing the Welcome Back Dinner. Because of their hard work and the work of their committee, hundreds of people were able to come together to celebrate being part of the Lincoln community. It was great to see parents mingling and kids of all ages playing and dancing together. Great night!

The deadline to return **flu forms** has been extended to Friday, Sept 18th. There is a space on the flu mist permission form where you can specify if you do **not** want your child to participate so please return the form either way even though one notice says it is not necessary. It will help Lynn immensely because either she or a Board of Health nurse has to make calls to every Lincoln household that does not return a form. There will be copies outside Lynn's door that you can fill out and hand in as late as 2:35 on Friday.

The 2009 Spring MCAS results for each town and school have been released. Lincoln School showed very favorable increases in almost every category. Boston.com publishes rankings based on how many students place in each category. According to that analysis, our third graders ranked 6th in Math and 19th in Reading out of 980 schools. Our fifth graders ranked 10th in Science, 11th in Math and 19th in English Language Arts out of 897 schools. Last year's fourth grade moved up 258 slots in math over their previous years' ranking. These increases are a testimony to the students' hard work, the effective teaching strategies of our staff and the value Lincoln families place on education. That being said, we will continue to provide a curriculum that is not test driven and that allows for differentiation, remediation and enrichment. These standardized test scores are only a snapshot of the learning that goes on in every classroom every day.

Instrumental music lessons start Friday, Sept 18. Fifth grade lessons, with the exception of percussion, are 7:45-8:30. Fourth grade lessons begin at 8:30 sharp. Third grade lessons and percussion lessons are 9:15-10:00.

Interruptions throughout the school day are becoming an increasing concern. When children are tardy or come to school without medicine, lunches, sneakers, instruments, homework etc., it causes interruptions for staff and other students. Please make every effort to have your children arrive on time with their belongings and knowing their after-school plans. Joyce will deliver messages of an urgent nature but these requests should be rare. The more disruptions to the day, the greater the likelihood that something will be missed. Beginning Tuesday we will keep a log of each parent's requests to deliver an item or a message to a child. If requests happen too frequently I will contact you to discuss how we can reduce their number. Your cooperation in these matters will translate into a more focused learning and work environment for all as well as increased responsibility – much more important than increased MCAS scores☺